

December 2, 2016

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
ATTN: Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action
1849 C Street, NW
MS 3071
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Federal Decision Making Regarding Infrastructure Projects

“Water is Life”. The slogan that can heard and seen. The slogan that carries so much energy. A gathering of nations voicing their opinions to the State and Government reminding all that water is life. Diverted, polluted, it does not matter, it is purely that argument that water should not be disturbed. We have these consultations, but what is being heard.

As a tribal member of Santo Domingo Pueblo and an employee at High Water Mark, LLC, I understand the issues and challenges we face as Native people when it comes down to a final say on matters of water, land, education, etc. But does our Government understand those challenges in our view, and do we understand those challenges in there’s? There is that needed bridge of equality with the two Governments. A political understanding as well as traditional. When discussing development and infrastructure of water or right-of-ways should include tribes or communities that may be affected by the development, from beginning to end.

I feel as though I speak of peace in this letter. Understanding and agreement between two Nations has always had its difficulties, but using what is going on right now in North Dakota, we must learn to respect our resources, our land, our air, our trees, our animals and always are water. Permitting, planning, and procedures are adamant in those, but respecting what is on this Earth is also as important. Please listen to the Native voices, the leaders, the people, the younger generation, because they are the protectors.

Respectfully,

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